

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

39-32

Action

Control: 9417

Rec'd: September 13, 1962

8:19 a.m.

EHR

Info

FROM: Belgrade

SS

TO: Secretary of State

SR

G

NO: 331, September 13, Noon

S P

H

SB

ACTION DEPARTMENT 331, INFORMATION MOSCOW 14

ARA

P

INR

RMR

At risk of overstepping my immediate competence, would like to offer following comment on our reaction to Soviet Government's threat about Cuba:

Statements of Secretary Rusk and Senator Mansfield seem to me right down the line and President's statements in Rice University speech were obviously masterful. I am disturbed, however, by suggestion of State Department spokesman Reap that Russian declaration was in effect only propaganda, and not to be taken seriously. I see that this theme has been taken up and repeated by Wireless File commentator Ford.

Have long argued generally against use of shopworn and meaningless cliché "just propaganda" as routine device for disposing of Soviet statements; but in present instance I consider it particularly malapropos. Soviet Government is government of a great power. As such it should be required to bear heaviest responsibility for words or gestures which bring instability into INTL relations and threaten world peace. It should not, instances of this sort, be told that no one takes it seriously and thus be encouraged to conclude it can continue to enjoy all advantages of adventurous and provocative behavior without having to accept any of attendant responsibility. When Soviet Government threatens to use force to bring about a new world war, if we move to defend our security and peace of Western Hemisphere, this is profoundly serious matter. Neither world opinion nor Soviet Government itself should, it seems to me, be encouraged to view it anything else.

MCG-B

George Kennan on the
Thess Statement.

DK

(Taken from Pres
speech and reading
at 8:15/16/62)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS
PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

-2- 331, September 13, Noon, from Belgrade

Trust Department and Embassy Moscow will forgive this intrusion into their proper concerns.

KENNAN

HMR/2

TRANSCRIBED COPY FOLLOWS

Incoming Telegram

Department of State

Limited Official Use

Control: 9417

Rec'd: September 13, 1962
8:19 a.m.

From: Belgrade
To: Secretary of State
No: 331, September 13, Noon

ACTION DEPARTMENT 331, INFORMATION MOSCOW 14

At risk of overstepping my immediate competence, would like to offer following comment on our reaction to Soviet Government's threat about Cuba:

Statements of Secretary Rusk and Senator Mansfield seem to me right down the line and President's statements in Rice University speech were obviously masterful. I am disturbed, however, by suggestion of State Department spokesman Reap that Russian declaration was in effect only propaganda, and not to be taken seriously. I see that this theme has been taken up and repeated by Wireless File commentator Ford.

Have long argued generally against use of shopworn and meaningless cliché "just propaganda" as routine device for disposing of Soviet statements; but in present instance I consider it particularly malapropos. Soviet Government is government of a great power. As such it should be required to bear heaviest responsibility for words or gestures which bring instability into INTL relations and threaten world peace. It should not, instances of this sort, be told that no one takes it seriously and thus be encouraged to conclude it can continue to enjoy all advantages of adventurous and provocative behavior without having to accept any of attendant responsibility. When Soviet Union threatens to intervene militarily and to unleash world war if we move to defend our security and peace of Western Hemisphere, this is profoundly serious matter. Neither world opinion nor Soviet Government itself should, it seems to me, be encouraged to view it anything else.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

-2- 331, September 13, Noon, from Belgrade

Trust Department and Embassy Moscow will forgive this intrusion into their proper concerns.

KENNAN

HMR/2